

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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C O N F I D E N T I A L YAOUNDE 0448

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AO, CM

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: CAMEROON RECOGNIZES REALITY AND MPLA GOVERNMENT

REF: A. YAOUNDE 290 NOTAL

B. YAOUNDE 406 NOTAL

C. YAOUNDE 411 NOTAL

1. SUMMARY. CAMEROON'S RECOGNITION ON FEBRUARY 2 OF MPLA GOVERNMENT WAS REASONED DECISION TAKEN IN LIGHT OF PERCEIVED HOPELESSNESS OF FNLA/UNITA POSITION. IT WAS RECOGNITION OF REALITY, NOT A CHANGE OF HEART. KEY FACTORS WERE BURGEONING MPLA VICTORY ON THE GROUND AND END OF ALL HOPE OF EFFECTIVE US SUPPORT, DIPLOMATIC OR MATERIAL, TO MPLA OPPONENTS. CAMEROON REMAINS COMMITTED TO SEEKING RECONCILIATION AMONG ANGOLANS AND OPPOSED TO SOVIET INTERFERENCE AND UNDUE INFLUENCE IN ANGOLA. ITS RECOGNITION OF MPLA GOVERNMENT IS DESIGNED TO AVOID ENDING UP ISOLATED FROM PORTENDING SIGNIFICANT OUA MAJORITY AND TO ATTEMPT TO BE IN POSITION TO EXERT MEASURE OF INCLUENCE IN RIGHT DIRECTION. END SUMMARY.

2. BEGINNING LATE OCTOBER/EARLY NOVEMBER, CAMEROON WAS INCREASINGLY STAUNCH MEMBER OF CAMP OF MODERATE AFRICAN STATES WHICH OPPOSED SOVIET/CUBAN-SUPPORTED IMPOSITION OF  
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MPLA REGIME IN ANGOLA AND ADVOCATED INSTEAD GOVERNMENT OF

NATIONAL UNITY COMPRISING ALL THREE ANGOLAN LIBERATION MOVEMENTS. CAMEROON'S POSITION WAS MOTIVATED BY CONCERN AT SOVIET/CUBAN POWER PLAY IN CENTRAL AFRICA, AND BY ANALYSIS OF ANGOLA'S ETHNIC REALITIES. THIS POSITION WAS STRONGLY AND DEEPLY HELD.

3. THOUGH CAMEROON APPARENTLY DID NOT TAKE FLOOR AT OAU SUMMIT MEETING, ITS DELEGATION LED BY FOREIGN MINISTER KEUTCHA CLAIMS TO HAVE PLAYED LEADING ROLE IN HOLDING MODERATES TOGETHER AND MAINTAINING THEIR STAND IN FACE OF INTENSE PRO-MPLA PRESSURE. DELEGATION RETURNED FROM ADDIS THOROUGHLY CONVINCED OF CONTINUING RIGHTNESS OF GURC' POSITION IN OPPOSING IMPOSITION OF MPLA REGIME.

4. AT SAME TIME, GURC RECOGNIZED GROWING DESPERATION OF FNLA/UNITA POSITION AS MPLA THREATENED INCREASINGLY TO WIN IT ALL ON THE GROUND. GURC PUT ITS HOPES IN US ABILITY TO EXERT ENOUGH DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE TO END SOVIET/CUBAN INTERFERENCE, FAILING WHICH GURC WOULD IDEALLY HAVE LIKED TO SEE US SEND IN ENOUGH COUNTER-BALANCING AID ON THE OTHER SIDE. GURC EVEN SHOWED ENORMOUS TOLERANCE OF SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION, WHICH IT VIEWED AS RESULT ACJ NOT CAUSE OF OR JUSTIFICATION FOR SOVIET/CUBAN INTERFERENCE.

5. FOREIGN MINISTER KEUTCHA ON JANUARY 22 ARTICULATED TO US IN PRIVATE WITH GREAT FERVOR GURC'S ANALYSIS OF ANGOLAN SITUATION AND ITS UNHAPPY ASSESSMENT THAT CAMEROON WOULD BE OBLIGED TO RECOGNIZE LUANDA REGIME IF NOTHING CAME OF KISSINGER-BREZHNEV TALKS THEN GOING ON IN MOSCOW AND MPLA WENT ONTO ACHIEVE MILITARY VICTORY (REF A). ON FEBRUARY 1, PRESIDENT AHIDJO RESTATED CAMEROON'S PAST POLICY TO FRENCH RADION INTERVIEWER, AND WENT ON TO SAY THAT CAMEROON WAS STUDYING WHAT POSITION TO TAKE NOW IN CONSEQUENCE OF EVOLUTION OF SITUATION SINCE OUA SUMMIT (REF B). NEXT DAY, GURC ANNOUNCED ITS RECOGNITION OF MPLA'S PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA (PRA) (REF C). ANNOUNCEMENT WAS COUCHED IN UNPOLEMICAL TERMS WHICH STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF SAFEGUARDING ANGOLA'S INDEPENDENCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY AND NATIONAL UNITY AS IMPORTANT FACTOR TOWARD FURTHERING NATIONAL LIBERATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. IT STATED GURC'S DECISION TO GRANT TOTAL SUPPORT TO PRA GOVERNMENT FOR RECONCILIATION OF ANGOLANS AND RESTORATION OF PEACE IN COUNTRY.

6. AFTER OAU SUMMIT, FLOW OF VIP VISITORS TO YAOUNDE TO DISCUSS ANGOLA STOPPED SBRUPTLY. AS FAR AS WE

AWARE, GURC SENT NO IMPORTANT OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS  
SUBJECT IN OTHER COUNTRIES. GURC STUDIES PROBLEM  
CONTEMPLATIVELY, AND MADE REASONED DECISION IN  
TYPICAL AHIDJO STYLE.

7. COMMENT. GURC'S RECOGNITION OF MPLA REGIME WAS  
OBVIOUSLY GRANTED MORE IN SORROW THAN ENTHUSIASM.  
IT FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL DAYS RECOGNITION BY SIERRA  
LEONE, WHICH BROUGHT NUMBER OF OAU MEMBERS RECOGNIZING  
LUANDA REGIME TO MAGIC NUMBER OF 24, A CLEAR MAJORITY.  
GURC COULD EXPECT MORE TO FOLLOW. DECISION IS IN  
KEEPING WITH AHIDJO'S AND GURC'S STYLE AND POLICY TO  
STAY IN GOOD GRACES OF THIRD WORLD PROGRESSIVES  
AND NEVER TO ISOLATE CAMEROON AMONG HARD-CORE CONSER-  
VATIVES. ANGOLA WAS (AND PRESUMABLY STILL IS) ISSUE  
ABOUT WHICH GURC FELT STRONGLY -- ENOUGH TO RISK LINING  
UP CLEARLY WITH MODERATES IN CONFRONTATION WITH  
PROGRESSIVES. SEEING IMMEDIATE SITUATION AS HOPELESS,  
GURC MOVED QUICKLY TO REPOSITION ITSELF, TO JOIN EARLY  
ON WHAT WAS DESTINED TO BE GROWING MAJORITY AND  
PERHAPS THEREBY TO GAIN SOME LEVERAGE TO HELP INFLUENCE  
MPLA TOWARD RECONCILIATION AND WEAN IT AWAY FROM  
EXCESSIVE SOVIET INFLUENCE.  
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